



The President's Daily Brief

30 July 1969



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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

Through a variety of channels the Jordanians have acted to make sure that the US is aware of their current gloomy appraisal of the Middle East situation

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The fullest exposition came from Zaid Rifai, Husayn's private secretary, whose theme was that Husayn would soon have to accommodate himself to Nasir's thesis that Arab aims can only be achieved through armed struggle. Nasir himself, said Rifai, had decided to bleed Israel regardless of the cost to Egypt. He said the Soviets had "clearly" promised to make good the Egyptian losses in materiel.

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Much of what Rifai said seems a bit overdrawn; among other things, we think it highly unlikely that the Soviets have given Nasir a blanket promise to keep his inventories full. Nevertheless, both the Egyptians and the Israelis have recently shown a willingness to accept higher casualties in their efforts to damage each other, and the Jordanians will find it difficult indeed to stay aloof.

SOVIET AFFAIRS

Kosygin and Gromyko furthered the notion the Soviets have been trying to implant in Western Europe--that Moscow is in a mood to reduce tensions and is ready for a round of European talks.

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Most of the discussion

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centered on the

European security conference. Both Kosygin and Gromyko showed interest in a dialogue with European leaders but no eagerness to resolve the outstanding issues.

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On the subject of Soviet Asian policy, Kosygin said that Washington shares concern with Moscow about "that continent," and he also asserted that if military conflict were to break out between China and the USSR, it would involve many states. For this reason, he claimed, Moscow "is doing all it can discreetly to end the Vietnam war."

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

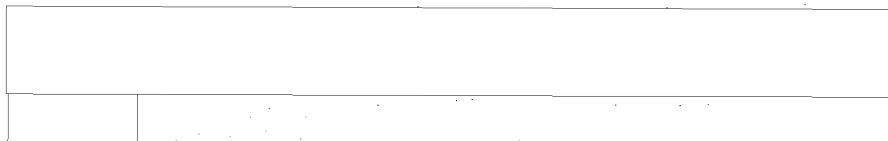
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EL SALVADOR - HONDURAS

Each side has its own interpretation of the agreement achieved at the OAS meeting on 29 July. Following the announcement that Salvadoran troops would be withdrawn, the Salvadoran national radio claimed El Salvador had "won the battle of Washington" and had obtained rights to indemnification. Hondurans were highly irritated by the Salvadoran attitude. We probably will see considerable foot-dragging by both nations.

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